

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. A spindle assembly, comprising:

a spindle housing;

5 a spindle shaft rotatably connected to the spindle housing;

a pulley connected to one end of the spindle shaft;

10 a mow ball rotatably connected to a second end of the spindle shaft; and

a string carrier plate connected to the spindle shaft intermediate

10 the spindle housing and the mow ball.

2. The spindle assembly of claim 1, wherein the string carrier plate includes a string guide and a string holder.

3. The spindle assembly of claim 2, wherein the string holder is s-shaped.

4. The spindle assembly of claim 2, wherein the string holder includes a 15 raised lip portion and a clamping portion.

5. An adjustable spindle assembly, comprising:

a spindle housing;

a grooved spindle shaft rotatably coupled to the spindle housing;

a pulley connected to one end of the grooved spindle shaft;

20 a mow ball rotatably connected to a second end of the grooved spindle shaft; and

an adjustable string carrier assembly adjustably connected to the grooved spindle shaft intermediate the spindle housing and the mow ball.

6. The adjustable spindle assembly of claim 5, wherein the string carrier assembly includes a mounting assembly and a string carrier plate.
7. The adjustable spindle assembly of claim 6, wherein the string carrier plate includes a string guide and a string holder.
- 5 8. The adjustable spindle assembly of claim 7, wherein the string holder is s-shaped.
9. The adjustable spindle assembly of claim 7, wherein the string holder includes a raised lip portion and a clamping portion.
10. The adjustable spindle assembly of claim 5, wherein:
 - 10 the grooved spindle shaft includes a plurality of locking grooves; and
 - the mounting assembly includes a locking slide positioned adjacent to the grooved spindle shaft and a spring for biasing the locking slide into one of the locking grooves thereby fixing the mounting assembly in place with respect to the grooved spindle shaft.
11. An adjustable spindle assembly, comprising:
 - a spindle housing;
 - a keyed spindle shaft rotatably connected to the spindle housing;
 - a pulley connected to one end of the keyed spindle shaft;
 - 20 a mow ball rotatably connected to a second end of the keyed spindle shaft;
 - a height adjustment tube connected to the mow ball and adapted to receive the keyed spindle shaft; and

a string cutting assembly adjustably connected to the height adjustment tube and adapted to be fixed in place at various positions along the height adjustment tube.

12. The adjustable spindle assembly of claim 11, wherein the string
5 cutting assembly includes a string mount and a cutting disk.

13. The adjustable spindle assembly of claim 12, wherein the string mount includes a pair of string holders for securing cutting string to the string mount.

14. The adjustable spindle assembly of claim 13, wherein the string
10 holders include v-shaped openings for holding cutting string.

15. The adjustable spindle assembly of claim 14, wherein the string mount includes a threaded opening and the height adjustment tube includes an exteriorly threaded surface adapted to be threaded into the threaded opening.

16. The adjustable spindle assembly of claim 15, wherein the string mount
15 includes a locking plate for securing the string cutting assembly at various positions along the length of the height adjustment tube.

17. The adjustable spindle assembly of claim 16, wherein the height
adjustment tube includes a flat locking portion along the length of the height
adjustment tube and the locking plate includes a rectangular-shaped opening
20 for engaging the flat locking portion, thereby fixing the string mount in place.